



March 17, 2025

Environmental Committee
Connecticut General Assembly
State Capitol
Hartford, CT 06106

RE: Written Testimony Submission HB 7174

Dear Environmental Committee Members:

I am writing to you as President of Save the River-Save the Hills, Inc., (STR-STH) in support of HB 7174 "AN ACT CONCERNING RIPARIAN BUFFERS AND ASSOCIATED ENVIRONMENTAL PROVISIONS."

According to the USDA website at [Riparian Forest Buffers](#), "riparian buffers can deliver a number benefits including filtering nutrients, pesticides, and animal waste from agricultural land runoff; stabilizing eroding banks; filtering sediment from runoff; providing shade, shelter, and food for fish and other aquatic organisms; providing wildlife habitat and corridors for terrestrial organisms..." as well as other benefits. Currently, Connecticut is the only state in New England without explicit protections for riparian buffers. Our state is missing this key component in protecting the water quality of all of our CT waterbodies. STR-STH encourages the Environmental Committee to forward HB 7174.

STR-STH agrees with Rivers Alliance's statement that "natural buffers are the simplest, most efficient tool we have to achieve goals of protecting landowners and communities from increased flooding, protecting and improving water quality, and while also respecting the rights of property owners —at little to no cost compared to expensive engineered solutions." Locally on the Niantic River Estuary, we have seen the positive effects of protecting riparian buffers on the Estuary and its tributaries. We strongly support the state of CT legislatively adding protections for riparian buffers.

STR-STH is a local, grassroots environmental nonprofit organization focused on the Niantic River Estuary and Bay in southeastern CT with an average of 350 members annually. Created in 2001, STR-STH's mission is the preservation of the health of the Niantic River Estuary and its watershed forests which protect the water quality of the river.

If you have any questions, I can be reached at president@savetheriversavethehills.org or 860-444-9247. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

D. Moshier-Dunn

Deb Moshier-Dunn
President, Save the River-Save the Hills, Inc.